GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4559
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2014
MINES AND MINERALS DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION ACT
Choudhary Col. (Retd) Sona Ram;Nath Shri Chand

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) has adequate provisions to address the concerns of weaker sections of the society especially in granting of mining lease for minor minerals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of proposals received by the Union Government under Section 5(1) of the said Act from the State Government of Rajasthan for prior approval at present; and

(d) the present status of the said proposals and the time by which these are likely to be approved?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES, STEEL AND LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a) and (b): Under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957, the powers of the Central Government are restricted to matters relating to major minerals only. As per Rule 27(1)(p) of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, the lessee of a major mineral shall, in the matter of employment, give preference to the tribals and to the persons who become displaced because of the taking up of mining operations.

As per section 15 of MMDR Act, State Governments are empowered to make rules for regulating the grant of quarry leases, mining leases or other mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals and for purposes connected therewith. The regulation and grant of concessions for minor minerals is completely within the legislative domain of the State Governments. Details of provisions made by various State Governments to address the concerns of weaker sections of the society in granting of mining leases for minor minerals are not maintained Centrally.

(c) and (d): Details regarding the number of proposals received by the Central Government under Section 5(1) of MMDR Act from the State Government of Rajasthan for prior approval and the present status of the said proposals are given in Annexure.

Mining concession proposals received from State Governments for prior approval of the Central Government in the Ministry of Mines are examined in the light of the provisions of MMDR Act, 1957, and the Rules framed thereunder viz. the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, and the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988; and the concerned guidelines issued by the Ministry of Mines. As such, no definite time line for disposal of such proposals by the Ministry of Mines can be indicated.